



FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND DESIGNATED AREA MIGRATION AGREEMENT

***** FNQ DAMA *****

SUBMITTING AN FNQ DAMA REQUEST FOR ENDORSEMENT **SUGGESTED SUBMISSION FORMAT/GUIDE FOR EMPLOYERS AND** **AGENTS**

(v4.1 – 23 April 2025)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING THIS GUIDE:

- This is a guide to prepare your endorsement request only, and does not replace the need for you to read the detailed information in the FNQ DAMA Occupation and Concessions list in conjunction with the FNQ DAMA Information Guide (both accessible in the Cairns Chamber of Commerce website), noting in particular the instructions in Part 2 of the FNQ DAMA Information Guide;
- If you are an employer, this guide does not replace the need for you to seek professional advice as necessary, particularly if you are unsure about any aspects of your endorsement request;
- This guide takes you step by step through the minimum required information, and is not exhaustive – if there are unusual or extenuating circumstances you consider relevant, you should include this information;
- Where possible, all information (except the Credit Card Authority) should be combined in a single PDF email attachment (or if more than one attachment, the fewer the better);
- The Cairns Chamber of Commerce will contact you if they require further information to consider your endorsement request;
- All information you provide in support of your request will be forwarded to the Department of Home Affairs (Labour Agreement Section) with a Cairns Chamber of Commerce endorsement letter if your request for endorsement is successful;
- The Cairns Chamber of Commerce Credit Card Authority for payment of the endorsement fee must be provided as its own separate attachment - this is the only document that is not forwarded to the Department of Home Affairs.

NOTE FOR REGISTERED MIGRATION AGENTS/IMMIGRATION LAWYERS

- If you have your own format and protocols you are not obliged to follow the format in this guide, as long as your endorsement request on behalf of your client is clear, concise and well-presented.

ITEM 1

BRIEF INTRODUCTORY LETTER (MAX ONE PAGE) (OPTIONAL)

Provide here, an introductory/cover letter (optional).

- This is where a migration agent/lawyer might, for example, provide a cover letter indicating they represent you – agents sometimes provide a list of contents/attachments;
- If you are not using an agent, a cover letter is still useful but not essential:
 - Note that your actual submission comes later!

ITEM 2

FNQ DAMA REQUEST FOR ENDORSEMENT FORM

Provide here, a fully completed FNQ DAMA Request for Endorsement Form.

Required for initial endorsement and for variations

- Form accessible in the [Cairns Chamber of Commerce website](#) (in the Resources section).
- ALWAYS use the latest version from the website – if you submit an old version, you may be asked to complete it again on the latest version.
- NOTE:
 - PART 1.0
 - **Business name/entity name** - this must be the name of the employing entity – this name will be one used for the endorsement;
 - Provide copies of relevant ASIC documents;
 - If a trust structure, the relevant trust deed must be provided.
 - **Contact person in Business** – the authorised contact is never a migration agent or lawyer – it must be the authorised person in the business seeking endorsement.
 - Note that it is NOT necessary to have Standard Business Sponsorship (SBS) – this information is only requested as background information.
 - PART 2.0
 - If using a migration agent or immigration lawyer and this part is completed, a Department of Home Affairs Form 956 is not required.
 - PART 3.0
 - In the occupations table, use the drop downs and make sure all fields from left to right are completed, with one row for each occupation;
 - The occupation and ANZSCO codes must be in the FNQ DAMA Occupation & Concessions List;
 - It is very important to consider and select the most appropriate visa option (or a combination for multiple occupations/positions). For helpful information, see Item 1.10 in the FNQ DAMA Information Guide.
 - The proposed salary must be the guaranteed annual earnings (excluding superannuation). If the actual salary is more than this due to penalty rates etc you can elaborate in your submission.
 - PARTS 4.0 and 5.0
 - Make sure you read these before signing the form.
 - PART 6.0
 - This is for your use only and not mandatory.
 - SIGNED BY...
 - This is a legal document - if the form is not properly signed and dated by the Business principal or authorised person, and by the witness (who can be anyone in the Business), the form will be returned to you for correct completion;
 - The form must not be signed by an agent on your behalf.

ITEM 3

FNQ DAMA EMPLOYER DECLARATION FORM

Provide here, an FNQ DAMA Employer Declaration signed by the authorised person in the business

Required for initial endorsement and for variations

- Accessible in the [Cairns Chamber of Commerce FNQ DAMA webpage](#) (in resources area).

ITEM 4

YOUR WRITTEN SUBMISSION (THREE TO FOUR PAGES MAXIMUM)

Provide here, a written submission to support your endorsement request.

Required for initial endorsement. For variations, also required, but focus on what has changed since your previous endorsement request submission.

- Your written submission MUST cover the following information (you may use the following bold headings as a guide if you wish):
 - **Business Overview**
 - For example, the Business structure (if a trust – include a copy of the trust deed), size/scale, what it does, the operating area (FNQ only or wider), how long the Business has been operating in the FNQ region, the operating hours (eg. if a restaurant for example, the hours and seating capacity, or for accommodation providers, the room capacity etc), workforce profile/size;
 - Do not assume the reader knows anything about your Business!
 - **Reasons for Requesting Access to the FNQ DAMA**
 - The reasons why you are seeking to access the FNQ DAMA rather than standard skilled migration programs.
 - **Genuine Need for Occupation/s and Position/s Requested**
 - Describe what the occupation/s is/are that you need;
 - If your internal position title/name differs from the ANZSCO title/name title, describe how they relate to each other:
 - Note: For FNQ DAMA occupations that are in ANZSCO, you can search for the ANZSCO description by occupation name or six digit code in the [ANZSCO website here](#);
 - Note: Your Business may have a different title compared to the one in ANZSCO – your occupation/s requested must ‘substantially align’ with the tasks in ANZSCO, despite the name;
 - Note: Some occupations in ANZSCO include ‘Alternative Titles’ or ‘Specialisations’.
 - For FNQ DAMA occupations that are not in ANZSCO (those with code 070499), the position descriptions are accessible in the [Cairns Chamber of Commerce website](#) (in the resources section).
 - Describe why your Business needs each of the occupations requested, and why you need the number of positions requested, for example:
 - Whether the occupation/s and position number/s are existing vacancies or whether they are new to cater for growth/expansion/diversification etc.;
 - A brief description of where the occupations/positions fit within the Business (note: later you will need to include an org chart);
 - Any impact on the Business of not having these occupations/positions filled;
 - **Labour Market Testing (LMT)**
 - Describe here what you have done to try to employ Australian/s for the role/s, such as where you advertised, when, and for how long (note you will need to attach the advertisements later – see Item 6);
 - Give an overview of the outcome of attempts to recruit Australians, and whether any Australians were recruited (note: you will provide details later);

- If you have historically had difficulty recruiting to the occupation/s and position/s, a brief description of the historical recruitment efforts is useful;
- Reference any relevant industry information about skill shortages if you wish (optional);
- The link to a DAMA Labour Market Testing Fact Sheet can be found in the [Cairns Chamber of Commerce website](#) (in the resources area).
- **Employment Terms and Conditions**
 - Describe here whether the occupation/s and position/s you are seeking under the FNQ DAMA are full-time, and for how long;
 - Describe whether accommodation or any other benefits are included or provided, or made available;
 - You may wish to include a sample employment contract (later).
- **Salary/Remuneration**
 - State the guaranteed annual earnings for each occupation/position requested (not including superannuation);
 - Describe how you determined the proposed salary for each occupation – for how to do this, [click on this link](#);
 - Note the references to whether your Business has an EBA, whether there is an ‘equivalent Australian employee’ in your Business to compare with, and how to research online for the Annual Market Salary Rate (AMSR);
 - Note that the AMSR nationally, state-wide, and regionally, may be different – focus on your region (or similar regions) and compare as relevant;
 - If there is a relevant award you should also reference this, noting that awards indicate the minimum salary (not the AMSR), and that not all occupations are covered by an award;
 - If the actual average salary is more than the guaranteed annual earnings (such as due to penalty rates/shiftwork) you should explain this here. Unless penalty rates are guaranteed by an employment contract or EBA, they are not part of the guaranteed annual salary.
- **TSMIT-CSIT/English/Age Concession/s**
 - If you are seeking a concession to TSMIT/CSIT (salary), English language, or age, the reasons why you are doing so:
 - You will find more detail on what the Cairns Chamber of Commerce is seeking about each of the concessions, by referring to the relevant part of the FNQ DAMA Information Guide (in particular the information in the text boxes);
 - If the guaranteed annual earnings are less than TSMIT/CSIT you may request access to the TSMIT/CSIT concession (currently limited to 90% of TSMIT/CSIT), if that concession is available for the particular occupation (see TSMIT/CSIT column in FNQ DAMA Occupation and Concessions List).
 - If seeking the TSMIT/CSIT concession, you will attach the TSMIT Concession Summary later.
- **Outstanding/Pending Immigration Matters with the Administrative Appeals Tribunal or Courts (OPTIONAL)**
 - If you have an outstanding immigration matter before the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) or the courts, any information about this in the context of the request

for endorsement being made (this will help the Cairns Chamber of Commerce to comment in the context of your endorsement request).

- **Adverse Information (IF APPLICABLE)**
 - If you have been subject to any immigration or sponsorship investigations, breaches or sanctions, you should describe these and provide any additional information for the Cairns Chamber of Commerce to take into account.
- **Prospective Overseas Worker/s**
 - Comment on whether any prospective Overseas Worker/s is/are already in your employ or whether you have yet to seek Overseas Workers for the occupation/s and position/s requested;
 - **Note:** It is not necessary to have identified any prospective Overseas Worker/s at time of seeking endorsement or requesting an FNQ DAMA labour agreement – it is your Business need that is being assessed.

ITEM 5

A POSITION DESCRIPTION FOR EACH OCCUPATION SOUGHT

Provide here, a position description for each occupation requested.

Required for initial endorsement and for variations.

- These should include who the role/s report to and which roles (if any) they manage/supervise.
- List the **actual** tasks and duties – do not just copy from ANZSCO.

ITEM 6

BUSINESS ORGANISATIONAL CHART

Provide here an organisation/structure chart of your Business.

Required for initial endorsement. Required for variations if more than 18 months since the previous was provided, or if the structure has changed.

- The chart should:
 - Indicate the various levels (who reports to whom);
 - Indicate which positions (or numbers of positions) are filled by Australian citizens or permanent residents, and which are filled by overseas workers (including visa type);
 - Show where the occupations/positions requested under the FNQ DAMA fit within the structure;
 - Note: Larger Businesses with a large workforce do not necessarily need to specify each individual - numbers in each role will suffice for example.

ITEM 7

COPIES OF THE MOST RECENT ADVERTISING FOR EACH OCCUPATION ('LABOUR MARKET TESTING')

Provide here copies of or evidence of your Labour Market Testing (LMT) for each occupation being requested.

Required for initial endorsement. Required for variations if the previous LMT was undertaken more than 12 months ago, or if the salary (or salary range) in the previous advertising is now lower than TSMIT/CSIT.

- Note that Labour Market Testing (LMT) MUST be undertaken for each occupation requested and MUST be undertaken in line with the expectations of the Department of Home Affairs.
- LMT requirements for the FNQ DAMA are much more lenient and flexible than they are for standard skilled migration.
- Your endorsement request cannot be assessed without appropriate LMT.
- As a general overview:
 - You must be able to demonstrate at least two separate attempts to test the Australian labour market in at least two different media for at least 28 days each (or twice in the same medium on separate occasions) for the nominated occupation/s:
 - At least one advertisement must have national reach;
 - The other may be advertised locally.
 - These attempts must have been conducted in the last twelve (12) months.
- For full details of FNQ DAMA LMT requirements, see the DAMA Labour Market Testing Fact Sheet in the [Cairns Chamber of Commerce website](#) (in the resources area);
 - Note when reading this information that Far North Queensland is a '**Category 3 Region**';
 - IMPORTANT - Note in the LMT Fact Sheet that the advertisements must contain specific information to be acceptable, including whether the job is full-time, the job location, duties, and the proposed salary (or salary range), among others.
- Social media is generally not an acceptable medium for Labour Market Testing.
- Note that aside from the FNQ DAMA endorsement request, this evidence of LMT will also need to be provided at time of requesting the labour agreement and also at time of nominating each individual Overseas Worker under the agreement.

COMMON MISTAKES:

- Not including everything required by Department of Home Affairs to genuinely test the labour market, such as the salary (or salary range) that matches to proposed salary (noting guaranteed annual earnings), whether the position is full-time, and/or duties that mis-align with the occupation.
- Not showing that the advertisement/s ran for at least 28 days. A useful way to do so is to print the ad after the 28 days, as most ads will show the date posted and the date the ad is accessed/printed.
- Advertising on social media.

Note that Labour Market testing that does not meet the above may need to be undertaken again for 28 days.

ITEM 8

SUMMARY OF THE RECRUITMENT ATTEMPTS AND OUTCOMES

Provide here, a summary of the outcomes of your Labour Market Testing (LMT) for each occupation being requested.

Required for initial endorsement and for variations (where new LMT has been undertaken).

- Your summary should include:
 - Name of advertising medium, dates and duration of advertising;
 - Number of applicants including:
 - **How many were Australian citizens or permanent residents**, and how many were Overseas Workers;
 - How many were shortlisted/interviewed;
 - How many were recruited (if any);
 - For those assessed as unsuitable, brief reasons why.
 - Any additional comments regarding your broader attempts to fill the positions with Australians.
- You may provide the information in your own format, however a LMT summary template (optional) is accessible in the [Cairns Chamber of Commerce website](#) (in the resources area).

ITEM 9

SALARY INFORMATION

Provide here, description/evidence of how you determined the proposed salary (called the Annual Market Salary Rate, or AMSR), for each occupation sought.

Required for initial endorsement. Required for variations if the previous salary determination was provided more than 12 months ago, or if there has since been a TSMIT/CSIT increase.

- Clear advice on determining AMSR is accessible [at this link](#).
- Note the reference in the link to 'guaranteed annual earnings' – this is the amount the employee is 'guaranteed';
 - If the role attracts penalty rates that are not part of the 'guaranteed' annual earnings, include an explanation, such as what employees in such a role usually earn beyond their guaranteed salary;
 - If the role includes a formal arrangement for accommodation or board or meals, include an explanation.
- Note that the AMSR advice in the link is broken into three topics:
 - Where there is an equivalent Australian worker;
 - Where there is no equivalent Australian worker but there is an enterprise agreement or industrial award;
 - Where there is no equivalent Australian worker, agreement or award.
- Note that industrial awards only indicate the minimum salary (not the market salary or AMSR for the FNQ region), and often do not include managerial level roles.
- Note that if your Labour Market Testing (LMT) is not advertised at the proposed salary (or salary range) for the guaranteed annual earnings, you may need to undertake the LMT again.

ITEM 10

TSMIT/CSIT CONCESSION TABLE (IF SEEKING A TSMIT 'SALARY' CONCESSION)

Provide here, a completed FNQ DAMA Salary Concession Table, only if you are seeking access to the TSMIT/CSIT (salary) concession.

Required for initial endorsement and for variations, where a TSMIT/CSIT concession is being requested.

- This table is accessible in the [Cairns Chamber of Commerce website](#) (in the resources area).
- Refer to the FNQ DAMA Information Guide to learn about the TSMIT/CSIT concession.

ITEM 11

SAMPLE EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT

Provide here, a copy of a sample employment contract that will be offered to the overseas worker/s once identified/recruited.

Required for initial endorsement and for variations.

- This might also be a recently signed contract if you have already identified the Overseas Worker/s.

NOTE: Although SID 482 and SESR 494 visas can be granted with a validity of 4 or 5 years respectively, the Department of Home Affairs may only grant validity that aligns with the length of the employment contract. Take this into account when considering the term of an employment contract.

ITEM 12

IMAGES OF THE BUSINESS

Provide here, 3-6 images that depict the size, scale and nature of your Business.

Required for initial endorsement. Recommended for variations where there have been changes to the business.

- Examples:
 - A farm, for example, might include an image from Google maps with the property outlined, images to depict the size and nature of operations, an image of the packing shed (if any), etc.
 - A restaurant, for example, might include images of the dining/bar area, of the kitchen, and of the menu, etc.
- If not already provided, a direct link to more images such as in your website or FaceBook page can be useful.

ITEM 13

LETTER FROM ACCOUNTANT (OPTIONAL)

Provide here, a letter from your accountant regarding how viable the Business is (optional).

Recommended for initial endorsement and for variations, where the business is small or relatively new.

- The Cairns Chamber of Commerce needs to be satisfied that the Business is viable and able to sustain/remunerate the number of occupation/s and position/s being requested:
 - The Cairns Chamber of Commerce may ask for a letter from your accountant, or other information, if the Business viability is not clear or obvious – this is more likely to be required for very small or for relatively new businesses;
 - It is up to you if you wish to provide this information up front or wait to be asked (waiting to be asked may prolong assessment time).